

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 36-55, 73-85, 95, 99 and 100 are presently active in this case. Claims 1-35, 56-72, 86-94, 96-98 having been canceled without prejudiced. Claims 36, 73, 80, 95, 99, and 100 having been amended by the present amendment.

The present preliminary amendment rewrites a number of the original dependent claims in independent form, and as such is not believed to raise any issue of new matter.

Accordingly, examination on the merits of Claims 36-55, 73-85, 95, 99 and 100 is believed to be in order and an early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
Attorney of Record
Ronald A. Rudder, Ph.D.
Registration No. 45,618

(703) 413-3000
Fax #: (703) 413-2220
GJM:RAR:clh
I:\ATTY\RAR\DIVISIONALS\240854US\PRELAMD.DOC